

to urge them forward. It is worth remembering that in these habits the Divers resemble the Cormorants and the Alcidae, whilst the Grebes seem to have had diving lessons from the Ducks.

There can be no doubt that the Puffin, and probably its nearest allies, feed their young in the nest until they are able to fly, exactly as the Petrels do, and consequently that my diagnoses of the Ciconiiformes and Galliformes (Seebohm, Classification of Birds, p. ix) are not absolutely diagnostic. The diagnosis of the Order Gallo-Grallæ on page 36 is easily altered to exclude the Tubinares and Impennes, but the Alternative Scheme, in the Appendix to the Introduction, must, I think, be given up.

XL.—*On the Foot of the Young of Iynx torquilla.*

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

IN very young Wrynecks (*Iynx torquilla*), about two days old, in which the yolk has not yet been completely absorbed, I have found a very peculiar modification of the skin covering the heel. The skin of this part is greatly thickened, forming



a. Young Wryneck, about two days old; nat. size.

b. Foot with heel-pad; $\times 2$ nat. size.

a prominent pad, 5 millim. long and half as broad, the surface of which is studded with obtusely conical tubercles, as shown in the accompanying woodcut. These tubercles are the

dermal papillæ which at a later period of the growth of the bird form the small flat scuta of the integument of the heel.

This structure has a distinct function at this early age. In moving about in the nest-hole, particularly when wishing to move to the edge of the cavity, the young bird does not use the toes, but pushes itself forward by means of the rough surface of this heel-pad.

It would be interesting to ascertain whether a similar structure is found in young Woodpeckers of the same age.

XLI.—*Notes on Birds from the Papuan Region, with Descriptions of some new Species.* By A. B. MEYER, M.D., C.M.Z.S., Director of the Royal Zoological Museum of Dresden.

(Plate XII.)

THE Dresden Museum has recently received, from several sources and from different parts of New Guinea and New Britain, a series of birds, on which I beg leave to offer the following remarks. I do not propose to give a complete list of the species, but only to mention such as present something new as regards their countries, their native names, their plumages, or their specific differences. In their nomenclature I follow Salvadori's standard work on Papuan ornithology as nearly as possible.

1. *CYCLOPSITTACUS DIOPHTHALMUS* (H. et J.).

Constantine Harbour, N.E. New Guinea, March 1887 (*Kubary*). Native name "Aul känger."

Eyes dark brown; bill "black, at the base greyish blue; feet light grey, with greenish shades."

2. *CYCLOPSITTACUS EDWARDSI*, Oust.

A female; New Guinea, Constantine Harbour or its neighbourhood (*Kubary*).

Oustalet described the male of this bird in the year 1885 (see *Ann. Sc. Nat.* 7 sér. vol. xix. art. 3; *cf.* Salvadori, *Orn. Pap. Spl.* i. p. 33), but the female has remained unknown, though Mr. Oustalet has recently written to me that he has received examples of this sex.